

ODE TO “RIF” RAF

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As the Legislative Session closes and the dust settles DHS will start to see the furthering evidence of the effects of what some legislators so fondly called “productivity enhancements.” As an EDO “productivity enhancement,” I have oddly found myself in the same predicament of trying to figure out my own budget: no income, projected cuts, backfills and “rainy day” funds. Of course, my “productivity enhancements” are my three cats, one of which I would happily give to a loving home if interested. Honestly, I like my cats better than most people and would never let them go. Well, except Claire, she hates the other cats.

Those of you who have been RIF’ed are probably not reading this newsletter (or maybe you are since there is not much to do in the painful 20 days you still have to report to work). There are many loopholes to jump through and forms to fill out, all the while receiving sympathetic nods and gestures from other employees who don’t know what to say and are fearful themselves about their future. Without a doubt, there is a grief process one goes through when experiencing this situation. Unfortunately, the Employee Assistance Program was cut, so it is a good thing I’m a therapist and get “family discount” on self-help therapy.

Luckily for us RIF-RAF (RAF being really ancient firewood, a.k.a, deadwood), change brings on movement, challenges, adventures and strengths that perhaps we may have not experienced without the push. New opportunities will arise. Those who are your true supports shine in what sometimes feels like a dark shadow. We give our hearts and souls to these difficult jobs we do and I fully intend to continue to do so, wherever I land. Keep smiling, look for the positives, spend some time with yourself, and do whatever you can to get through this “molehill or mountain” in the road. Always remember, we might be RIF but we will never be RAF!